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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Near East

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Interview with the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem

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SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

1. The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin Hadsch el Hussein, is at present visiting Beirut in connection with matters discussed with the Moslem Brotherhood in Alexandria. The following opinions exist regarding the reasons for his visit:
 - a. To influence Arab-Israel relations with the object of preventing the attainment of the understanding between Arab countries and Israel attempted through American mediation.
 - b. To oppose the political plans of the new king of Saudi Arabia, which do not agree with the objectives of the Grand Mufti.
2. In the course of a personal interview on Arab political questions the Grand Mufti declared:
 - a. In the past 14 days there have been important discussions between the Moslem Brotherhood and the activists of the Revolutionary Committee, resulting finally in reaching nearly everything for which the Brotherhood has been striving. (The resistance came from the group of older officers of Naguib and from the reactionary remainder of the Wafd).
 - b. These approaches between the radical elements in the Egyptian Government and the Moslem Brotherhood will affect British-Egyptian negotiations in this wise: the British have been seeking to gain time in order to draw out the negotiations over Suez; now we shall endeavor to irritate things until the British lose patience and put themselves in the wrong. In this way it will be possible to play the English and the Americans one against the other; it is test of patience.

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- c. The American endeavors for a lessening of tensions in the Middle East through bilateral agreements with the Arab states and Israel are a miscarriage because they do not allow for British interests.

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